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LIFE OF ROBERT E. LEE FOR BOYS AND GIRLS. By J. G. de Roulhac Hamilton and Mary Thompson Hamilton. New York and Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company. \$1.25 net.

"This book is written with the hope that through it the life and character of Lee may become more real to the generations of young Americans now growing up. His was a life worthy of study to all young people, particularly those who are Americans." With no attempt to exalt Lee unduly, either as a man or as a general, with no tendency to belittle his opponents, the story of his life and achievements is told accurately, sympathetically, impartially. In this present critical period of American history, such a study as this,—simple, straightforward, sincere in its characterization of one of the greatest of American patriots,—is timely and helpful. Both in school and college it should do much toward developing and strengthening among our young people a fine spirit of patriotism free from sectionalism or jingoism and based not on power but on righteousness, justice, humanity.

EVERY-DAY WORDS AND THEIR USES. A Guide to Good Diction. By Robert Palfrey Utter. New York: Harper and Brothers. \$1.25 net.

This book is divided into three parts, the first part (15 pages) being devoted to a statement of Guiding Principles in the Use of Words; the second (225 pages) containing an alphabetical list of words and expressions to which one may refer as to a dictionary; and the third (27 pages) furnishing a Glossary of Grammatical and Other Terms Used. The author "explains the meaning and use of a thousand or more every-day words and expressions which are frequently misused or misunderstood." He seeks to "give exactly the information most wanted, and to present it in compact, accessible form, without pedantry, formality, or technicality." In preparing the book he has been "guided by the belief that the ways of our speech are formed by the users of it; that grammarians and dictionary-makers are not kings in the realm, but merely recording secretaries." In spite of such an explicit and fearless declaration of independence, the author at times exhibits a dogmatism which shows either that his field of observation has not been wide enough or that he is

still bound by traditional rules of grammar; as when (in spite of the Oxford Dictionary) he condemns unreservedly the construction "everybody" with a following plural pronominal adjective, and declares that "*dove* is fast becoming obsolete as the past tense of the verb to *dive*," as if *dove* were the original form of which *dived* is now being substituted, instead of the reverse. Sometimes his point of view is not quite plain, as when he says "*anybody's else*" is correct, but modern usage prefers "*anybody else's*" Why? the reader naturally asks. Again, "both *loud* and *loudly* are used as adverbs; as 'The rites of war speak loudly for him,' and 'where the battle rages loud and long.'" What is the principle to guide the inexperienced reader here?

On the whole, however, the book is fair in spirit and accurate in statement and as a reference book in school or college should do much to counteract careless errors in speaking and writing.



VOYAGES ON THE YUKON AND ITS TRIBUTARIES. A Narrative of Summer Travel in the Interior of Alaska. By Hudson Stuck, Archdeacon of Alaska. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. \$4.50 net.

The author tells us in his Preface that his book is "a sober attempt to describe the country and its people, without any ulterior ends whatever," and that, though quite complete in itself, it is intended as a supplement and complement to *Ten Thousand Miles with a Dog-Sled*. The sobriety of purpose is evident throughout the book, but the spirit in which it is written reveals the many-sided personality of the consecrated Apostle to the Eskimos: his jealous love for the people among whom he has labored faithfully for so many years, his vision of the future of this great undeveloped country of Alaska, and his righteous indignation at the slightest thought of any unjust exploitation of its resources and its people. As he carries us with him on his journey of twenty-two hundred miles from the headwaters of the Yukon to its mouth and then takes us off into extensive side-trips on its tributaries, pouring forth a poetical rhapsody on a thunderstorm, sketching the history of every settlement, giving spicy anecdotes of early settlers, discussing the etymology of place-names, calling attention to geological formations, with